

Hazardous Medicines

The majority of medicines are not classed as hazardous. The only medicinal products that are automatically deemed to be hazardous are cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines. There is no definitive list of such products the following table has been developed using the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in the United States and medicines that are classified in Chapter 8 (Malignant Disease and Immunosuppression) of the British National Formulary. This is meant as a guide to assist segregation of hazardous medicinal waste.

Medications most likely to be seen in primary care

Drug name	BNF chapter	Physical State	Form	Main Use
anastrozole	8	solid	tablets	breast cancer
azathiopine	8	solid	tablets	transplant
chloramphenicol	5		eye drops	antibiotic
ciclosporin	8 (10)	solid	capsules	transplant
colchicine	10	solid	tablets	gout
cyproterone acetate	8	solid	tablets	prostate cancer, fertility
diethylstilbestrol	8	solid	tablets	prostate cancer and breast cancer
dutasteride	6	solid	capsules	reduction of prostate
estropipate	6	solid	tablets	HRT
estriol	6	solid	tablets	HRT
estradiol	6			HRT
ethinylestradiol	8	solid	tablets	oestrogen deficiency
finasteride	6	solid	tablets	prostate
fluorouracil	8	solid	capsules	gastro tumours breast cancer
		liquid	injection	
		solid	cream	
hydroxycarbamide	8	solid	capsules	leukaemia
leflunomide	10	solid	tablets	rheumatoid arthritis
medroxyprogesterone acetate	8	solid	tablets	endometrial cancer
methotrexate	8		oral	leukaemia and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
		liquid	injection	
	10	solid	tablets	rheumatoid arthritis
misoprostol		solid	tablets	abortion + GI disorders
norethisterone	8	solid	tablets	HRT, contraception
progesterone	6	liquid	injection	
		solid	gel	
		solid	pessaries	
raloxifene	6	solid	tablets	postmenopausal osteoporosis
tacrolimus	8	solid	capsules	immunosuppressant
tamoxifen	8	solid	tablets	breast cancer
testosterone	6	solid	capsules	
		solid	tablets	
		liquid	injection	
		solid	implant	
		solid	patches	
		solid	gel	
zidovudine	5	solid	capsules	HIV

Medications, sorted alphabetically

Drug name	BNF chapter	Physical State	Form	Main Use
aldesleukin	8	solid	injection	kidney cancer
alemtuzumab	8	liquid	infusion	leukaemia
amsacrine	8	liquid	infusion	leukaemia
anastrozole	8	solid	tablets	breast cancer
arsenic trioxide	8	liquid	infusion	
azathiopine	8	solid	tablets	transplant
		solid	injection	
basiliximab	8	solid	injection	renal transplants
BCG Vaccine	8	solid	powder	bladder cancer
bevacizumab	8	liquid	infusion	colon cancer
bexarotene	8	solid	capsules	skin cancer
bicalutamide	8	solid	tablets	prostate cancer
bleomycin	8	solid	injection	leukaemia
bortezomib	8	solid	injection	myeloma
buserelin	8	liquid	injection	prostate cancer
			nasal spray	
busulfan	8	liquid	infusion	leukaemia
		solid	tablets	
capecitabine	8	solid	tablets	colon cancer
carboplatin	8	liquid	infusion	ovarian and lung cancer
carmustine	8		implant	
		solid	injection	
cetorelix acetate	6	solid	injection	female infertility
cetuximab	8	liquid	infusion	colon cancer
chlorambucil	8	solid	tablets	leukaemia
chloramphenicol	5	solid	capsules	antibiotic
			injection	
			eye drops	
chorionicgonadotrophin	6	solid	injection	female infertility
choriogonadotropin alfa	6	liquid	injection	female infertility
ciclosporin	8 (10)	solid	capsules	transplant
		liquid	oral	
ciclosporin		liquid	infusion	
cidofovir	5	liquid	infusion	AIDS
cisplatin	8	liquid	injection	testicular, lung, cervical, bladder, head and neck, ovarian cancer
cladribine	8	liquid	infusion	leukaemia
colchicine	10	solid	tablets	gout
crisantaspase	8	solid	injection	leukaemia
cyclophosphamide	8	solid	tablets	rheumatoid arthritis
		solid	injection	
cyproterone acetate	8	solid	tablets	prostate cancer, fertility
cytarabine	8	liquid	injection	leukaemia
dacarbazine	8	solid	injection	skin cancer

Drug name	BNF chapter	Physical State	Form	Main Use
daclizumab	8	liquid	infusion	renal transplants
dactinomycin	8	solid	injection	paediatric cancers
daunorubicin HCL	8	solid	injection	leukaemia
diethylstilbestrol	8	solid	tablets	prostate cancer and breast cancer
dinoprostone	7	solid	pessaries	induce labour
		liquid	infusion	
		solid	tablets	
		solid	gel	
docetaxel	8	liquid	infusion	breast cancer and lung cancer
doxorubicin	8	solid	injection	leukaemia
dutasteride	6	solid	capsules	reduction of prostate
epirubicin	8	solid	injection	breast cancer
erlotinib	8	solid	tablets	lung cancer
estropipate	6	solid	tablets	HRT
estriol	6	solid	tablets	HRT
estradiol	6			HRT
estrmustine phosphate sodium	8	solid	capsules	prostate cancer
ethinylestradiol	8	solid	tablets	oestrogen deficiency
etoposide	8	liquid	infusion	testicular cancer, lung cancer
		solid	injection	
		solid	capsules	
exemestane	8	solid	tablets	breast cancer
finasteride	6	solid	tablets	prostate
	8	solid	tablets	immunosuppressant
		solid	injection	
fluorouracil	8	solid	capsules	gastro tumours breast cancer
		liquid	injection	
		solid	cream	
flutamide	8	solid	tablets	prostate cancer
fulvestrant	8	liquid	injection	breast cancer
ganciclovir	5	liquid	infusion	Infection
ganirelix acetate	6	liquid	injection	female infertility
gemcitabine	8	solid	injection	lung cancer, bladder cancer
glatiramer	8	liquid	injection	multiple sclerosis
goserelin	8	solid	implant	prostate and breast cancer
hydroxycarbamide	8	solid	capsules	leukaemia
idarubicin	8	solid	capsules	breast cancer and leukaemia
		solid	injection	
ifosafamide	8	solid	injection	
imatinib	8	solid	tablets	leukaemia
interferon alfa-2b	8			
interferon alfa-n1	8			
interferon alfa-2a	8	liquid	injection	hep b and c

Drug name	BNF chapter	Physical State	Form	Main Use
Interferon Beta	8	liquid	injection	multiple sclerosis
irinotecan HCL	8	liquid	infusion	colon cancer
lanreotide	8	liquid	injection	endocrine tumours, palliative care
leflunomide	10	solid	tablets	rheumatoid arthritis
letrozole	8	solid	tablets	breast cancer
leuprorelin acetate	8	solid	injection	prostate cancer
lomustine	8	solid	capsules	Hodgkin's disease
medroxyprogesterone acetate	8	solid	tablets	endometrial cancer
megestrol	8	solid	tablets	endometrial cancer
melphalan	8	solid	tablets	breast cancer, ovarian cancer, myeloma
		solid	injection	
menotropins	6	solid	injection	female infertility
mercaptopurine	8	solid	tablets	leukaemia
methotrexate	8		oral	leukaemia and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
		liquid	injection	
	10	solid	tablets	rheumatoid arthritis
mifepristone	7	solid	tablets	abortion
	7	liquid	infusion	induce labour
misoprostol		solid	tablets	abortion + GI disorders
mitomycin	8	solid	injection	gastro tumours breast cancer
mitotane	8	solid	tablets	adrenal gland tumours
mitoxantrone HCL	8	liquid	infusion	breast cancer, leukaemia
mustine		solid	injection	
mycophenolate mofetil	8	solid	tablets	organ transplant
		liquid	infusion	
		liquid	oral	
nafarelin	6	liquid	nasal spray	endometriosis
norethisterone	8	solid	tablets	HRT, contraception,
octreotide	8	liquid	injection	endocrine tumours, palliative care
oxaliplatin	8	liquid	infusion	colon cancer
oxytocin	7	liquid	injection	labour inducing
paclitaxel	8	liquid	infusion	ovarian cancer
pentamidine isethionate	5	solid	injection	
		liquid	nebuliser	
	5	liquid	drops	antibiotic drops for eyes and ears
pentostatin	8	solid	injection	leukaemia
podophyllum	13	liquid	solution	removal of genital warts
porfimer Sodium	8	solid	injection	lung cancer
procarbazine	8	solid	capsules	Hodgkin's disease
progesterone	6	liquid	injection	
		solid	gel	
		solid	pessaries	
raloxifene	6	solid	tablets	postmenopausal osteoporosis

Drug name	BNF chapter	Physical State	Form	Main Use
raltitrexed	8	solid	injection	colon cancer
ribavirin	5	solid	tablets	bronchiolitis, hep C
		solid	inhalation	
		solid	capsules	
Rituximab	8	liquid	infusion	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
sirolimus	8	solid	tablets	renal transplants
syntometrine	7	liquid	injection	reduced bleeding after labour
tacrolimus	8	solid	capsules	immunosuppressant
		liquid	infusion	
tamoxifen	8	solid	tablets	breast cancer
tegafur with uracil	8	solid	capsules	colon cancer
temoporfin	8	liquid	injection	head and neck cancer
temozolomide	8	solid	capsules	
testosterone	6	solid	capsules	
		solid	tablets	
		liquid	injection	
		solid	implant	
		solid	patches	
		solid	gel	
thalidomide	8			
thiotepa	8	solid	injection	bladder cancer
tioguanine	8	solid	tablets	leukaemia
topotecan	8	solid	infusion	ovarian cancer
toremifene citrate	8	solid	tablets	breast cancer
Trastuzumab	8	solid	injection	breast cancer
treosulfan	8	solid	capsules	ovarian cancer
		solid	injection	ovarian cancer
tretinoin	8	solid	capsules	leukaemia
triptorelin	8	solid	injection	prostate cancer, endometriosis
valganciclovir	5	solid	tablets	AIDS
vinblastine sulfate	8	liquid	injection	leukaemia
vindesine	8	solid	injection	leukaemia
vinorelbine tartrate	8	liquid	infusion	breast cancer
		solid	capsules	
zidovudine	5	solid	capsules	HIV